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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

# INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Venezuela

DATE DISTR. 15 February 1949

**SUBJECT** Increasing Activity of Accion Democratica Elements

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NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. 14 February 1949

SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. The political unconsciousness prevalent in Venezuela at the present time is being intensified by increased activity on the part of members of the Accion Democratica Party (AD).
2. Members of the AD are stirring up unrest in the East Lake Maracaibo area, although no definite plans for strikes have been made or rumored. As an overwhelming majority of workers in that area are members of the AD, the military have been alerted and are prepared for any eventuality.
3. Commandant Roberto Casanova and Captain Gamez Calcano, in charge of the East Lake military establishment, have stated that they intend to fire upon recalcitrant workers, in spite of the fact that these workers are relatively unarmed, in the event of another oil strike. They feel that this would serve as a lesson to those planning future strikes and would also give the military a chance to display their authority. One danger in such action lies in the unknown extent and form of public indignation should the military shoot down the workers. Casanova stated that the government is eagerly waiting for an opportunity to dissolve all labor syndicates, and in the event of another walkout one of the first official acts would be to outlaw such organizations.
4. Communists in Maracaibo and the Lake section have prudently avoided any overt participation in the Accion Democratica-inspired demonstrations and activities, as they were partially responsible for the failure of the Accion Democratica strike of 17 January 1949. It is reported that the military, the government, and the various oil companies have as yet been unable to cite any specific charges against the Communists.

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